

# At the Theaters



Leon Kimberly  
At the Orpheum

Augusta Lang  
At the Gayety

HERE we are again. With the din of war resounding through the world, deafening the ears of the people to all other sounds save those that have to do with martial things, comes the still, small voice of the manager, reminding us that the theater is about to open its doors after a summer recess, and inviting us to come and partake of that which may serve to make us forget for a moment the misery and sorrow of the real world in the fun and folly of the mimic. It is with some modesty, too, that the manager makes his bow this year of grace. Hitherto he has come with something of pride, and has displayed his wares with a confidence that bred in him at least assurance; now he has felt the chastening rod of adversity to a degree at least, and it is with less of certainty and more of wistfulness he asks us to attend and enjoy the things he has prepared. Let us hope he has that which will merit attention, for surely now, if ever, the world needs the theater, if only for the diversion it affords.

In Omaha the situation is unchanged, and the activities will resume just where they left off last spring. At the Brandeis Joy Butphen will be in charge, representing locally the managing firm of Crawford, Zehring & Phillee. A pre-season display of picture-drama will be shown for the week beginning with Au-

gust 20, the attraction being "Neptune's Daughter," in which Annette Kelerman is featured. For the opening attraction of the regular season, "Milestones," a charming comedy-drama, very popular in New York last season and the season before, is to be presented, opening on September 6. Both the Orpheum and the Gayety announce their opening bills for next Sunday; the Orpheum will show Arnold Daly in G. B. S.'s one-act comedy, "How He Lied to Her Husband," and a bill of merit otherwise; the Gayety to swing into line with Ed Lee Wroth and his "Ginger Girls." The Orpheum will continue the even tenor of its way, uninterrupted. The Krug will very likely continue dark; reports have come from the east that the American is to be inhabited by the "Progressive" burlesque, but no local announcement to that effect has yet been made.

"As slick as a new pin," said Manager Johnson of the Gayety theater when asked what condition that popular playhouse would be in when it is opened next Sunday for the regular season of musical burlesque. The Gayety is undergoing its annual house cleaning which in this instance means much fresh paint, new moquette carpet in certain sections of the house, the walls thoroughly cleaned and the fresco decoration touched up where needed. Although the auditorium proper and the fronts of the boxes always have been well illuminated, the

brilliance will be increased about 200 per cent through the installation of hundreds of Mazda lamps of greater efficiency than the carbon lamps to be discarded. On the stage the footlights have been doubled in number by the installation of an additional strip containing the same number of lamps as already contained in the footlights. A brilliantly lighted stage has always been Manager Johnson's hobby and it was claimed by the companies playing the Gayety that even last season the stage at that house was the lightest and the light most evenly distributed of any theater on the circuit. New changeable electric letter signs have been placed in front of the theater, which will be still further illuminated by several of the newer type nitrogen electric lamps.

The Gayety will still continue to be a spoke in the wheel booked by the Columbia Amusement company of New York City, whose attractions have been seen at that house for the last five seasons and which have firmly established the Gayety in this entire community as being the home of brilliant musical burlesque which can be attended by mother and the girls with equal propriety as by father and the boys. The season is completely booked and will continue for thirty-eight weeks, starting Sunday afternoon, August 23, with "The Ginger Girls," which always good entertainment, will again be

## SINGING COMEDIENNE AT THE EMPRESS.



Carita Day

headed by the former Omaha boy, Ed Lee Wroth, the brother of Roy Wroth, the Farnam street cafe proprietor. As has been the custom at the Gayety, there will be two performances every day, feminine patronage being especially catered to at every performance. Many brand new shows will be presented during the season and many of the familiar titles will serve as the name of shows that will be new in every particular. Some of last season's greatest successes will be retained in their entirety, there being just as good reason to play a successful musical burlesque entertainment more than one season as there is to retain any of the best drawing dramatic successes more than a single season. But even in such cases the song numbers will be of this season's vintage and the performance wholly satisfactory.

Although things are still in a rather copy-turvy condition in the interior of the theater, the box office will be opened for the advance sale of tickets next Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

Once again this year the Orpheum season is to be opened by a dramatic star of unusual prominence. For the headline attraction, Arnold Daly is coming. Assisted by Doris Mitchell and company, he is to present George Bernard Shaw's one-act comedy, "How He Lied to Her Husband."

For the opening week, which begins August 23, with the seat sale starting next Wednesday, August 19, the Orpheum will look like a new playhouse. While Manager Byrne is not asserting that the theater, with its new fresco and decorations and carpets, is now the most attractive amusement place in America, or even in the middle west, he is nevertheless eagerly awaiting the verdict of the public in regard to the fresh color scheme.

Improvements have been made to the amount of \$14,000. Of this amount \$3,000 is the sum spent in providing the theater with a restful color harmony of pearl and ivory and old rose. Herman Meyer, with his corps of capable decorators, has been at work there since early in June. The

lighting of the playhouse has been increased by 10 per cent. For fire protection a complete new sprinkler system has been installed at an outlay of \$4,500. New silk plush hangings for the boxes and new mahogany arm-chairs for the stalls are other items that give the theater a rejuvenated air. The stage also has new equipment, such as the pictorial curtain and two new drops. In fact, the whole playhouse, from scene-left to furnace room is now thoroughly renovated and fresh for the opening of the new season. The actor who is to head the initial bill of seven acts gained his widest distinction as a producer of plays by George Bernard Shaw. Years ago he was seen in Omaha as Chambers in "Pudd'head Wilson." Later he was a star with Julia Marlowe in "Barbara Frietche."

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